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Lakewood Named as Finalist for Cities of Service Engaged Cities Award

Lakewood recognized for working alongside citizens to create and implement solutions that improve lives and communities

LAKEWOOD, CO – Lakewood is one of 10 cities selected as a finalist for the Cities of Service Engaged Cities Award, a recognition program that elevates the work being done in cities to partner with residents and solve a diverse range of problems. The award, underwritten by Bloomberg Philanthropies, highlights the ways that city leaders are co-creating the future with residents and allows cities around the world to learn best practices and implement similar solutions in their own cities.

Lakewood was chosen as a finalist based on key selection criteria, including significant work with citizens to tackle a public problem, clear evidence of impact, and potential to apply its strategy to other problems and geographies. Lakewood's leaders understand that local government works better when it is open to the ideas and talents of its citizens. Residents know what is best for their communities – and their expertise can help the city deliver better services, solve public problems, and improve government performance.

Through the Lakewood's Sustainable Neighborhoods Program, the city supports resident-driven sustainability initiatives by providing tools and extensive support, helping neighborhood groups identify areas of need, determine existing resources and expertise, and implement projects that increase the tree canopy, reduced waste, improve energy efficiency, and more.

"The Sustainable Neighborhoods Program is really having a meaningful impact for our residents and our city," said Lakewood Mayor Adam Paul. "It's helping address a whole range of community goals that include fostering local food production, increasing the use of clean energy, reducing air pollution and even bringing healthier meals to school students. What I love most is that it's building a deep sense of community because neighbors are meeting and getting to know each other."

"In our second year of the Engaged Cities Award, we are more heartened than ever to see that city leaders continue to break down barriers to citizen participation and involvement," said Myung J. Lee, Cities of Service Executive Director. "The ten finalist cities show the power of working alongside their residents to improve lives and provide a model for others to follow."

Cities of Service received more than one hundred applications for the award from cities in the Americas and Europe. With help from an esteemed group of experts, Cities of Service chose the 10 finalists, whose solutions achieved impact by engaging citizens in variety of ways, including: impact volunteering, participatory design, crowdsourcing, and citizen-sourced data. Finalists tackled challenges related to environment and sustainability, health and safety, neighborhood revitalization, and more.

The Engaged Cities Award was open to cities with populations of 30,000+ in the Americas and Europe. Cities submitted their applications in January 2019. Cities of Service will choose up to three winning cities and award a total of \$200,000. Winners will be announced at CityLab in October 2019.

For more information about the Cities of Service Engaged Cities Award, please visit: engagedcitiesaward.org.

About the City of Lakewood

Lakewood is home to about 155,000 residents living at the foot of the Rocky Mountains. It is known for its diverse and varied neighborhoods, healthy local economy and innovative approaches to community collaboration. It's been named an All-America City, and one-quarter of the land is dedicated to city parks, open space and trails.

About Cities of Service

Cities of Service is a nonprofit organization that helps mayors build stronger cities by changing the way local government and citizens work together. We help our coalition cities tap into citizen insights, skills, and service to identify and solve critical public problems. Founded in 2009 by New York City Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, Cities of Service supports a coalition of more than 260 cities, representing more than 73 million people across the Americas and Europe. Visit us at citiesofservice.org or follow us on Twitter [@citiesofservice](https://twitter.com/citiesofservice).